



Series: Summer of Psalms

The Psalms reflect just about every emotion and mood of our human experience, from shouts of praise to wrestling with the hardest questions about suffering. Their voice is refreshingly spontaneous in conversation with the divine through poetry, prayer, and of course, song. This summer, we will celebrate the rich diversity of the Psalms, exploring major themes and how they can help us draw into closer relationship with an ever-present God. Come, let us join with God's people throughout the ages in singing praise and heartfelt prayer as we experience a Summer of Psalms.

“Here at the very center of the Bible are songs, rising up like a tune from its heart.
They capture the innermost thoughts and prayers of Old Testament people –
and they still speak directly to our needs”
(*NRSV Student Bible* with notes by Philip Yancey and Tim Stafford)

Message description:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! All psalms of praise in some fashion describe who God is by telling of what God has done. The psalms of praise invite us to give testimony and to surrender to this God, so that we might fully give ourselves to God in praise. The psalms of thanksgiving are one of these types of praise psalms, in which people bear witness to all that God has done and give God thanks and praise. Yet in an amazing and powerful ways, the psalms of thanksgiving still leave room to acknowledge the lament, suffering, and sorrow of this life. In a way, it is as if to say, though my heart is weary, troubled, or heavy, I may still praise the Lord. It is this happy-sadness that marks are earthly pilgrimage as we await the return of Christ the King. “Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever!” (Psalm 107)

Psalms of Thanksgiving: (30, 65, 66, 68, 75, 90, 107, 108, 116, 136, 138)

Praising God for what God has done, often with a recognition of what the people have experienced (suffering, grief, and loss).

“This is where God seeks to take us: from hard labor to the fruit of our labor, from sorrow to gladness, from exile to home. And for the psalmist, there is always a sense in which joy retains a poignant residue of sorrow, a kind of happy-sadness that marks our earthly pilgrimage.” -David O. Taylor

“The joy of God has been through the poverty of the manger and the affliction of the cross; therefore, it is indestructible, irrefutable. It does not deny affliction when it is there, but it finds in the very midst of distress that God is there; it does not argue that sin is not grievous, but in that very place of sin is found forgiveness; it looks death in the face and it is there that it finds life.” -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The psalms of thanksgiving leave room for the affliction, distress, lament, and forgiveness and draw us towards the salvation of God that we experience through the cross of Jesus Christ. They draw us toward the hope of Christ, our ultimate reason to sing.

Psalms of Hallelujah! (146-50)

*The conclusion to the book of Psalms, each one beginning and ending with Hallelujahs!
Hallelujah- Hebrew command to praise Yah (shorthand of Yahweh)*

The movement of faith is ultimately from lament to praise... because joy is our true end.

This is the same movement modeled in the book of Psalms, where the first part is marked by more lament psalms and the second half filled with more praise psalms.

Psalm 150

1 Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary;

praise him in his mighty heavens!

2 Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his excellent greatness!

3 Praise him with trumpet sound;

praise him with lute and harp!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dance;

praise him with strings and pipe!

5 Praise him with sounding cymbals;

praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!